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USAID contributes \$48 million, calls for greater transparency to increase use of state systems

Announcing a \$48 million assistance package for 2007, USAID called on the Senegalese Government to create conditions to enable USAID to increase its use of Senegal's public institutions and procedures to implement development programs in keeping with the Paris Declaration on donor harmonization. "We encourage the Government of Senegal to carry out all reforms leading to greater transparency in its budgetary and financial systems so that a larger portion of our assistance can be channeled through the Government," USAID/Senegal Mission Director Kevin Mullally said.

Mullally explained that the Government had signed an agreement this year under which USAID will reimburse the government for the construction of up to nine rural middle schools built to specification.

Speaking at an agreement signing ceremony on September 21, Senegalese Finance Minister Abdoulaye Diop said "USAID is resolutely engaged in supporting the Government of Senegal in its priority social sectors," adding that USAID's current programs "align perfectly" with Senegal's poverty reduction strategy.

This year's USAID contribution marks an 18% increase in aid to the West African country over 2006, most notably in middle school education and funding through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) to fight malaria, Senegal's leading cause of death.

The agreements cover:

Health: over \$29 million for malaria prevention, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and decentralized health planning and financing, and community health. This amount includes \$16.7 million for PMI activities in Senegal.

Education: \$10.7 million to build and equip rural middle schools, train teachers and principals, and organize community participation in managing the schools.

Economic Growth: over \$7.2 million to promote economic growth through development policy reform, natural resource management, increased trade and investment, support to small enterprises, and public-private partnerships.

Casamance Program: more than \$890,000 will be used to promote peace in this southern region of Senegal, which has seen more than 20 years of civil conflict.



USAID Director Kevin J. Mullally and Senegalese Education Minister Moustapha Sourang inspect 17 new vehicles donated by USAID at John F. Kennedy High School in Dakar. Photo by Richard Nyberg, USAID

USAID donates 17 vehicles and 400,000 books for middle schools

USAID has presented Senegal's Ministry of Education with 17 vehicles and 400,000 math and science books to enhance middle school education in the country. The vehicles are to be used for school inspectors in the regions of Fatick, Kolda, Tambacounda and Ziguinchor to visit rural middle schools, including 30 already built or renovated with USAID financing. The added mobility will allow education officials to train and evaluate teachers and principals, visit construction sites, and undertake programs to get more girls into schools.

Over the next several months, USAID plans to build five new schools and renovate two others in each of the same regions. "With these vehicles, USAID would like to help reinforce supervision of the education system," said USAID Mission Director Kevin J. Mullally at the donation ceremony at John F. Kennedy High School, an all-girls school built with USAID funds in the 1960s. Mullally also urged authorities to ensure transparency in the use of the vehicles for education-related activities by maintaining accurate transport records.

"The United States was the first donor to step up to help with middle school education," Education Minister Moustapha Sourang said, adding that USAID's program covers the "crucial aspects of access and quality of education." The 400,000 textbooks destined for middle schools throughout the country are in addition to 700,000 elementary texts offered through the U.S. President's Africa Education Initiative since 2005. Senegalese experts have worked with counterparts at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina to produce the books.

United States helps protect 700,000 from getting malaria

Results from a USAID-funded campaign to spray the indoor walls of homes in entire communities – the first widespread malaria prevention activity of its kind in Senegal for over a half a century – show that nearly 700,000 Senegalese are less likely to contract malaria this rainy season.

In an indoor residual spraying (IRS) pilot activity launched in May and June in the districts of Nioro, Richard Toll, and Velingara, a total of 76,491 houses were sprayed, protecting 680,934 people. The activity far surpassed its target of treating 75,000 houses to protect 500,000 people. IRS is the application of safe insecticides to the indoor walls and ceilings of a home or structure in order to interrupt the spread of malaria by killing mosquitoes that carry the malaria parasite.

This activity is part of a comprehensive malaria program in Senegal funded through the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, which includes indoor residual spraying and insecticide-treated bed nets for prevention, prevention among pregnant women with prophylactic drugs, and effective diagnosis and treatment of malaria with artemisinin-based combination therapies at health facility and community levels. This year, Senegal, where malaria accounts for more deaths than any other single cause, will receive \$16.7 million in PMI assistance. A similar level of funding is expected each year through 2010.

The PMI is an interagency initiative led by USAID, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and host-country governments, as key partners. The goal of the PMI is to help national malaria control programs cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 focus countries in Africa.



Trained community sprayers in the village of Keur Moussa prepare to treat homes against mosquitoes. Photo by Richard Nyberg, USAID

USAID signs \$10 million guaranteed loan agreement with banks to support small businesses

On September 26, USAID signed a \$10 million loan guarantee agreement with three commercial banks in Senegal that will increase access to loans for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

The agreement was signed by USAID/Senegal's Mission Director, Kevin J. Mullally, and directors of Attijari Bank, Compagnie Bancaire de l'Afrique Occidentale, and Ecobank. The loan portfolio guarantee encourages commercial banks to lend more to small businesses engaged in sectors identified in Senegal's accelerated growth strategy — agriculture, textile and garment, tourism, handicraft and cultural industries, fisheries and seafood, and information and communication technology. The seven-year guarantee will enable SMEs to access \$10 million in loans and will provide guarantee coverage of up to 50% of the credit to the SMEs.

"The U.S. government has accepted to assume part of the risk because we believe in private initiative," said the chargé affaires at the U.S. Embassy, Jay T. Smith, "especially those of small- and medium-sized enterprises that represent 80% of enterprises and generate more than 90% of private sector jobs, but nevertheless benefit from an extremely small amount of bank financing."



USAID sponsored 10 summer camps for 1,000 teenage students at middle schools built with USAID funding, like this one in Keur Samba Dia. At the camps, the students took part in pedagogic, computer, artistic, sports, and other activities. Photo by Richard Nyberg, USAID